

Serial No. 09/783,657
Attorney Docket No. 00-8013

REMARKS

Claims 1-74 are pending. Claims 1, 37, and 67 are independent claims. In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-17, 30-47, and 61-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,519,597 to Cheng et al. ("Cheng"). Claims 11, 18-29, and 48-60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as obvious over Cheng in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,418,448 to Sarkar.

Claims 1, 37, and 67 are each presently amended. Claims 1 and 37 are presently amended to recite "*automatically* generating (28) the schema (22) for the relational database." Claim 37 has also been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 67 is presently amended to recite "read[ing] *automatically* a document-type definition." For the reasons set forth below, claims 1, 37, and 67 as amended are not anticipated by Cheng. The presently offered claim amendments merely clarify, and do not alter, the scope of the claims inasmuch as the claims as filed, when read in light of the specification, contained the respective limitations of automatically generating the schema for the relational database and automatically reading a document-type definition.

Claims 1-66

Cheng does not teach "*automatically* generating (28) the schema (22) for the relational database" as is now recited in independent claims 1 and 37. In Remarks filed August 25, 2003 ("prior Remarks"), Applicants argued that independent claims 1 and 37 were patentable over Cheng because Cheng teaches a schema generation process that is not automatic but rather requires manual intervention from a human user. (Prior Remarks, page 20.) The Examiner expressed no disagreement with this argument, but rather asserted that the limitation of "*automatic* loading of an XML document into a relational database" was not recited in claims 1 and 37 even if the limitation was taught in Applicants' specification. (Office Action, page 2; emphasis added.) Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment to claims 1 and 37 addresses the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, claims 1 and 37, as well as claims 2-36 and 38-66, depending from claims 1 and 37 respectively, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 67-74

Cheng does not teach "read[ing] *automatically* a document-type definition" as is now recited in independent claim 67. Rather, as the Examiner explained in the Office Action,

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"Cheng discloses generating and loading . . . metadata of XML document[s] consisting of DTD elements or components which are *retrieved, searched or stored by users . . .*" (Office Action, page 11; emphasis added.) In contrast, claim 67 as presently amended is limited to systems in which the DTD is read automatically rather than manually by a user.

Independent claim 67 is also in condition for allowance for the independent reason, advanced in the Prior Remarks (page 23), that Cheng does not teach the limitation of a "metadata nesting table (94) containing metadata (34) representative of nesting relationships between particles in the document type definition (18)." The examiner asserts that the internal registration table taught by Cheng (col. 12, lines 15-40) is the metadata nesting table recited by applicants. (Office Action, page 3; the Examiner cites column 13 of Cheng but it is clear from context and the Examiner's rejection of claim 67 on page 12 of the Office Action that the Examiner intended to cite column 12.) However, there is no teaching or suggestion by Cheng that the internal registration table contains "metadata (34) representative of nesting relationships".

Nesting relationships exist when elements in a DTD have as children or parents other elements in a DTD. (See Specification, paragraph 116.) Cheng's internal registration table stores metadata about XML data, but Cheng makes no suggestion that the internal registration table stores nesting elements. Rather, the internal registration table's columns (see Cheng, col. 12, lines 23-34) appear to comprise merely columns identifying a block of XML along with database tables, an XML DTD and an XML schema with which the block of XML is associated. Cheng makes no indication that the internal registration table contains metadata identifying relationships with parents or children of other particles in a DTD.

Under either or both of the two independent rationales advanced above, claim 67, and claims 68-74, depending from claim 67, are in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1-74 are in condition for allowance.

Any fees associated with the filing of this paper should be identified in any accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fees are required, they may be charged to Deposit Account 07-2347.

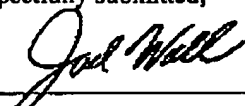
Respectfully submitted,

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